

On page 1, line 5, after "The" please insert --present--.

On page 1, lines 5-6, please change "as claimed in the precharacterizing clause of Patent Claim 1" to --for statistical multiplexing of ATM links--.

5 On page 1, line 10, please delete ", on the one hand,".

On amended page 5a, please delete lines 1-8, and insert the following heading and paragraphs:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 It is an object of the present invention to provide a more efficient method for transmitting ATM cells on a connecting line.

15 In general terms the present invention is a method for statistical multiplexing of ATM links. A plurality of virtual connections, which transmit ATM cells via a connecting line, and further incoming connections are assigned to a first or a second class depending on question criteria. The first and the second classes are subdivided into further sub-classes. the question criteria are applied successively in steps to each of the sub-classes until a further incoming connection accepted in a sub-class, or all the sub-classes have been passed through.

20 Advantageous developments of the present invention are as follows. The question criteria are formed by linking transmission parameters of the connecting line and/or of the connection.

The transmission parameters and/or their links to one another are stored in a network node, and are updated when an ATM link is set up and/or cleared.--.

25 On page 6, please delete lines 1-5, and insert the following heading and paragraph:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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A^B

3
and.

The features of the present invention which are believed to be novel, are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention, together with further objects and advantages, may best be understood by reference to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in the several Figures of which like reference numerals identify like elements, and in which:--.

On page 6, line 9, after "rate" please insert --;--.

On page 6, line 13, please change "," to --; and--.

On page 6, after line 16, as a separate line before line 18, please insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

On page 7, line 13, please change "[" to --(--; and "]" to --)--.

On page 7, lines 19 and 21, please change all "[" to --(--; and "]" to --)--.

On page 11, after line 4, please insert the following paragraph:

--The invention is not limited to the particular details of the method depicted and other modifications and applications are contemplated. Certain other changes may be made in the above described method without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention herein involved. It is intended, therefore, that the subject matter in the above depiction shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On amended page 12, line 1, please change "Patent Claims" to --
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.